

have witnessed more money being kept in the taxpayers' pocketbooks and more small businesses being established due to the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts. In fact, my district, which was hardest hit community after September 11, 2001, is now recovering due to accelerated depreciation and other tax incentives.

Instead of recognizing this truism, the Democrat budget will impose the largest tax increase in American history. The tax relief Americans have been enjoying would cease to exist under this legislation. The Marriage Penalty Relief would be eliminated and 23 million taxpayers would see their taxes increase by an average of \$466 in 2011. As we continue on down the list of tax hikes, 31 million taxpayers would be affected by the Child Tax Credit being cut in half. Their taxes would increase by an average of \$859 in 2011.

These tax increases are not for a greater good of reducing the deficit but to allow Democrats the freedom to spend more and expand the government. My colleagues seem to be living up to their moniker "Tax and Spend" Democrats. This budget is above and beyond the President's request and would amount to some \$22.5 billion in spending in 2008 alone for nondefense and nonemergency appropriations. The bill also does not include any meaningful entitlement reform—the most problematic detriment to our deficit.

This is not a plan for fiscal responsibility. This is a plan to spend the taxpayers' money flippantly. We need to be conscious of how the American taxpayers' money is spent. As Members of Congress we were sent here to look out for the best interests of our constituents and this budget resolution in not proving to do that.

#### HONORING THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE KRAECK FAMILY

#### HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Kraeck family for their dedication to American soldiers. They coordinated a project to donate care packages to the troops at Fort Dix before deployment and they also shipped packages to troops overseas. The packages contained valentines, supplies and snacks, as well as encouraging words from nursery, elementary and middle school students.

The Kraeck family undertook this remarkable project as a way to remind all of us, especially those deployed in a war zone, that our admiration and gratitude for our military is limitless. The broad reach of the donations prove this point.

This impressive project united hundreds of people toward a common cause: supporting our troops. With the help of students, parents, teachers and principals, as well as area librarians, businesses, newspapers and Girl Scout troops, the Kraecks tirelessly organized the collection and distribution of Girl Scout cookies, toiletries, and snacks to the soldiers. Additionally, more than 1,000 valentines, handmade by local children, were sent expressing their gratitude, esteem, and compassion for the troops.

The Kraeck family has already shipped more than 620 boxes of Girl Scout cookies and delivered supplies to Fort Dix to be distributed before deployment. They plan to continue sending even more shipments overseas in coming months and I encourage their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to congratulate and thank Kathy, Emily and Alison Kraeck and all those involved in these noble efforts. On a personal note, as an Iraq war veteran, I especially appreciate the Kraeck family's work on this worthy project.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND JERRY TARKANIAN

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian for their commitment and dedication to the Clark County community and congratulate them on being selected by the Clark County School Board to have a new middle school named in their honor.

Lois Tarkanian has been actively involved in a number of organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Nevadans. After receiving her Bachelors of Arts in education, a Master of Arts in Speech Pathology as well as a Doctorate in leadership and human behavior, a certificate in speech pathology, language, and audiology, Lois began a long and distinguished teaching career. She wanted to give more to her community and expand her knowledge as she worked as a speech pathologist, principal, central office administrator and as a college instructor both in Nevada and California. Lois has also served as a member of the Clark County Board of School Trustees for 12 years. In addition to her commitment to enriching the lives of her students, Lois has also conducted clinical work with autistic, deaf and aphasic children. Presently, Lois serves as the Las Vegas City Councilwoman in the 1st Ward, a position she has held since 2005, she also serves on the City of Las Vegas Real Estate Committee and Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Committee.

In addition to her professional success, Lois also has a number of philanthropic pursuits. She serves as a board member for the Catholic Charities, the Clark County Public Education Foundation, Family and Child Treatment Center for Abused Children and the Oralingua School for the Hearing Impaired. Lois has received a number of accolades as a result of her dedicated services, such as the Humanitarian of the Year by the Catholic Community Services, and the Distinguished Woman of Nevada and Citizen of the Year by the Nevada Family and Child Treatment Center.

Jerry Tarkanian played basketball for Fresno State and later earned his master's degree with honors in Educational Management. Along with his wife, they understand the importance of education and donated \$100,000 to the University of Fresno State's Madden Library and initiated the "Baskets for Books Program". In addition to his dedicated service of enriching the lives and educational experiences of students, Jerry is known for his ex-

ceptional coaching abilities. He started coaching in 1956 at San Joaquin Memorial High School. On the collegiate level, he has coached Long Beach State, Fresno State and UNLV. Jerry has spent over 38 seasons as a head coach in collegiate basketball. Not only has he taken Fresno State to NCAA Tournament appearances in 2000 and 2001, 2001 WAC title and 2002 WAC Tournament Championship, but he has lead UNLV to four NCAA Final Four appearances and a national championship in 1989–1990. In 1999, Jerry was inducted into the California Community College Sports Hall of Fame. Jerry has an exemplary coaching record, having never had a losing season. Furthermore, Jerry has had 42 of his players drafted to the NBA's with 12 first round picks.

The Tarkanians continue to support their love of education through a number of avenues, such as speaking engagements at hospitals and school rallies.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lois and Jerry Tarkanian. Their dedication to education and the community are truly commendable and have enriched countless lives. I congratulate them on their much deserved recognition by the Clark County School District in having a school named after them. I am certain that this educational establishment will embody the education excellence that the Tarkanians have long advocated.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE GULF COAST HURRICANE HOUSING RECOVERY ACT

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 30, 2007*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act (H.R. 1227). This bill is critical in providing affordable housing to low-income families affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

It is the responsibility of all national governments to prepare, plan and defend its citizens against all known and potential natural and man-made disasters. Such was the case that confronted the Bush administration in August 2005. But because of the Bush administration's lack of preparation, misplaced priorities and ineptitude, the combination of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma severely devastated the Gulf Coast to such a degree that many lives and property were lost and the effects of disrupted lives and businesses are still being felt nearly 2 years later. Frankly, the response of the administration has been unacceptably slow in the aftermath of the hurricanes and the needs of displaced residents of the Gulf Coast have been left unmet.

The Gulf Coast Hurricane Housing Recovery Act offers significant relief to the displaced families of the Gulf Coast. Specifically, the bill directs FEMA to be flexible in the application of its funds for the Louisiana Road Home program that provides financial incentives for people to come back and live in the State.

The bill further directs HUD and the New Orleans Public Housing Authority to engage its human and material resources to preserve the supply of affordable rental housing.

The bill incorporates an important fair housing enforcement component that makes funds